

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ ANZ: LJMOSER: BDS

6/18/73 EXT 22209

APPROVED BY AMBASSADOR PORTER

EA - MR. SNEIDER

EA - MR. GODLEY

S/ S - MR. MILLER

WHITE HOUSE - MR. FROEBE

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O 182212 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118716

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: NZ, PFOR

SUBJECT: NZ AMBASSADOR PROTESTS CONFUSION OVER

KIRK " INVITATION"

1. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR LLOYD WHITE CALLED 9:30 MONDAY JUNE 18 ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY DESIGNATE GODLEY TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN OVER PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF " INVITATION" FOR PM KIRK TO VISIT PRESIDENT NIXON ENROUTE TO OTTAWA. WHITE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO SEEK MEETING WITH SECRETARY ROGERS TO EXPRESS " EMBARRASSMENT AND DISPLEASURE" OF GONZ THAT SUCH AN INVITATION WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY WHITE HOUSE PRESS SOURCES WITHOUT ANY PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH KIRK.

2. WHITE STATED HE AUTHORIZED TO SAY IT WOULD BE " JUST IMPOSSIBLE" FOR PM KIRK TO COME TO US ON TIME SCHEDULE MENTIONED IN PRESS, DUE PRIMARILY TO FACT THAT PARLIAMENT IN SESSION. IMPRESSION CREATED IN NZ WHITE DESCRIBED
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AS KIRK READING IN NEWSPAPER THAT " GREAT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAD RAISED ITS LITTLE FINGER AND BECKONED HIM TO COME". ANY INVITATION SHOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT PRIVATELY BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT. MR. GODLEY EXPRESSED DEPARTMENT' S APOLOGIES THAT MATTER SHOULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED IN MANNER EMBARRASSING TO GONZ, ASKED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNEIDER TO GET ON PHONE TO WHITE HOUSE AND VERIFY STATUS OF INVITATION.

3. AMBASSADOR WHITE STATED REMEDY FOR SITUATION WAS NOT NOW TO PROPERLY SCHEDULE A MEETING BETWEEN KIRK AND PRESIDENT NIXON BUT RATHER FOR SECRETARY ROGERS TO AGREE TO ATTEND AN EARLY ANZUS MEETING IN WELLINGTON. HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH SECRETARY ROGERS. MR. GODLEY PROMISED TO DO HIS BEST TO SET UP SUCH A MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT CITED BREZHNEV VISIT AS A POSSIBLE PROBLEM. WHITE HOPED HE COULD SEE THE SECRETARY WITHIN THE NEXT TWENTY FOUR HOURS. HE STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT NEEDED AN EXPLANATION FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, OR PERHAPS A LETTER TO PM KIRK FROM THE SECRETARY OR PRESIDENT.

4. MR. SNEIDER RETURNED TO REPORT THAT AS THE RESULT OF SEVERAL PHONE CALLS HE HAD DETERMINED THAT THE MIXUP WAS BASED ON A GENERAL DECISION BY THE USG THAT IF AUSTRALIAN PM WHITLAM SHOULD BE INVITED TO THE US, PM KIRK SHOULD ALSO BE INVITED. WHITE HOUSE PRESS SPOKESMAN HAD BEEN ASKED IF KIRK WOULD BE INVITED AND, BASED ON HIS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF USG INTENTIONS, HAD PREMATURELY RESPONDED IN AFFIRMATIVE. MR. SNEIDER STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY WHITE HOUSE TO EXPRESS APOLOGIES OF USG THAT THIS MATTER SHOULD HAVE COME TO ATTENTION OF PRESS BEFORE IT WAS RAISED PRIVATELY WITH PM KIRK. HE ALSO WAS AUTHORIZED TO STATE THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WISHED TO INVITE PM KIRK TO CALL ON PRESIDENT NIXON BEFORE OR AFTER THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA, BUT IF THIS SHOULD BE INCONVENIENT, IT WAS HOPED THAT PM KIRK COULD VISIT THE US AT SOME LATER DATE. MR. GODLEY ADDED THAT HE PRESUMED THAT A LETTER WOULD BE PREPARED SOON FORMALLY TRANSMITTING SUCH AN INVITATION TO PM KIRK. AMBASSADOR WHITE THANKED MR. GODLEY ON MEET-
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ING WITH HIM ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE BUT REITERATED THAT HE REMAINED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO SEE SECRETARY ROGERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. FYI. EXPECT TO TRANSMIT PRESIDENT' S INVITATION BY SEPTTEL SOONEST. END FYI.

ROGERS

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NNNNMAFVVCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
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